

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request the entry of the foregoing amendments and consideration of the remarks. Claims 1-26 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 5, 8, 9-13, 15, 17, and 21 have been amended. Claims 3-4, 6-7, 16, 19, 20 and 22-26 have been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7-12, 16 and 20 were objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of respective base claims and intervening claims.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 7, 6, 4, and 3. Therefore, claim 1 is allowable as including all of the limitations of claim 7, its base claim, and all intervening claims. Applicants have amended claims 5 and claims 8-12 to depend from allowable claim 1.

Applicants have amended claim 13 to include the limitations of claim 16. Therefore, claim 13 is allowable as including all of the limitations of claim 16, its base claim, and all intervening claims.

Applicants have amended claim 17 to include the limitations of claims 20 and 19. Therefore, claim 17 is allowable as including all of the limitations of claim 20, its base claim, and all intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 21 to depend from allowable claim 17.

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 5, 8-15, 17-18 and 21 are allowable.

Amendments to the Specification and Drawings

Applicants have made amendments to the specification and drawings to clarify the disclosure. No new matter has been added.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 7, 8, 16, and 26 were objected to for informalities. Claim 26 has been canceled. The subject matter of claim 7 is now in claim 1, but the language has been amended to overcome the objection. The subject matter of claim 16 is now in claim 17, but the language has been amended to overcome the objection. Claim 8 has been amended according to the Examiner's helpful suggestion. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the objections for informalities be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 20 has been canceled and its subject matter included in amended claim 17. Amended claim 17 includes appropriate antecedent basis for the elements therein. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 13-14, 17, 19 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Horton et al. (Horton, U.S. Pat. No. 6,041,222).

Claims 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Krasner (U.S. Pat. No. 5,841,396).

Claim 24 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Krasner (U.S. Pat. No. 6,002,363).

Applicants have amended claims 1, 13 and 17 to be allowable according to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 22-24 have been canceled. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 have been overcome and claims 1, 13 and 17, and their respective dependent claims, are allowable over the prior art.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-6, 15, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Horton in view of King (U.S. Patent No. 6,300,899).

Claims 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Horton in view of Krasner '396 and further in view of Farrer et al. (Farrer U.S. Pat. No. 5,734,966).

Applicants have amended claims 1, 13 and 17 to be allowable according to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 5, 15 and 18 now depend from allowable claims. Claims 3-4 and 6 have been canceled. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 have been overcome and claims 5, 15 and 18 are allowable over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

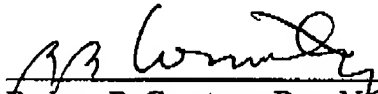
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 5, 8-15, 17-18, and 21 are in condition for allowance. The allowance of the claims is requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned if there are any issues that remain to be resolved prior to allowance of the claims.

AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Please charge deposit account 501914 for any fees due in connection with this Office Action response.

Respectfully submitted,

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